

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IS

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM DIGGS RE BLACK HEBREWS

REF:(A) TEL AVIV 477 (B) TEL AVIV 1308

1. OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS HAS REQUESTED REPORT REGARDING STATUS OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR COMMITTEE'S CASE-BY-CASE EXAMINATION OF BLACK HEBREW SITUATION. HE SPECIFICALLY WISHES TO KNOW WHEN COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS ANALYSIS OF THE CASES AND BE PREPARED "TO NEGOTIATE", AND WHETHER THE EMBASSY WILL BE PREPARED TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY. HE REQUESTS THAT THE MESSAGE IN PARA 4 BELOW, REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS TO VISIT THEIR FAMILIES IN ISRAEL, BE TRANSMITTED IN HIS NAME TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE.
2. WE EXPLAINED TO DIGGS' OFFICE THAT TWO OF NAMED INDIVIDUALS, CLARANCE ELLIS AND WARREN BROWN, HAD ALREADY BEEN

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TURNED DOWN BY ISRAELIS, WHO SAID THAT NO ONE WITH TIES TO BLACK HEBREWS WOULD BE ADMITTED (REF A), BUT DIGGS STAFFER SAID DIGGS WISHED MESSAGE SENT AS IS AND ASKED THAT WE MAKE CLEAR THAT DIGGS WANTED REPLY IN WRITING FROM GOI.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD TEXT OF LETTER BELOW FROM DIGGS TO BURG. WE HAVE POUCHED TO LICHTBLAU A COPY

OF THE MEETING SUMMARY REFERRED TO IN LETTER, WHICH SHOULD BE ENCLOSED. APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN PROVIDE ON COMMISSION OF INQUIRY EVEN BEFORE FORMAL REPLY TO DIGGS' LETTER.

4. LETTER FROM DIGGS TO BURG: BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE MANY OTHER PROBLEMS, I WOULD APPRECIATE A STATUS REPORT REGARDING THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S INTERNAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE CASES INVOLVING BLACK HEBREWS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. AT WHAT POINT IS THE COMMITTEE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS ANALYSIS OF THESE CASES AND BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE?

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT AT LEAST 107 NATIONALITIES ARE PRESENTLY RESIDING PEACEFULLY IN ISRAEL AS RESIDENTS OR CITIZENS OF THAT COUNTRY. AMONG THAT GROUP THERE ARE VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN CITIZENSHIP, HOUSING, ETC., WITH ALL THE PRIVILEGES OF ANY OTHER ISRAELI CITIZEN. ALSO, THERE IS A CHRISTIAN GROUP FROM WESTERN U.S.A. WHO ARE RECEIVING THE SAME TREATMENT.

MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HEBREWS HAVE REQUESTED THROUGH ME TO BE ALLOWED TO VISIT FOR A SHORT TIME WITH MEMBERS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE STILL RESIDING IN ISRAEL. THEY HAVE ASSURED ME THAT THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF REMAINING PERMANENTLY IN ISRAEL. THEY HAVE OFFERED TO LEAVE PASSPORTS WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IF SO DESIRED. ALL OF THE PEOPLE ON THE FOLLOWING LIST HAVE BEEN DEPORTED FROM ISRAEL EXCEPT MS. LORRAINE NEWMAN. ALL HAVE WIVES AND/OR

CHILDREN THAT THEY HAVE NOT SEEN FOR AS MUCH AS FIVE YEARS.

-- MR. WILLIE BUTLER MR. JAMES BROWN
-- MR. CLARANCE ELLIS MR. DAVID SNIPES
-- MR. EDGAR BRINSON MR. WARREN BROWN
-- MR. ERIC HOLLY MS. LORRAINE NEWMAN

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DRAFT SUMMARY OF A MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 12TH IN NEW YORK CITY REGARDING THE HEBREW ISRAELITES. A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WILL BE HELD SOON. A REPORT WILL BE SENT TO YOU AT THAT TIME. YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PURSUING THIS MATTER IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. SINCERELY
YOURS, CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR., M.C. END TEXT. COOPER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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